

use of highway rights-of-way as covered in volume 7, chapter 7, section 8 of the Federal-Aid Highway Program Manual;³ and bikeways and pedestrian walkways as covered in part 652 of this chapter.

§ 713.203 Definition.

Air space, as used in this subpart, is that space located above, at, or below the highway's established gradeline, lying within the approved right-of-way limits.

§ 713.204 Policies.

(a) Where a State highway department (SHD) has acquired sufficient legal right, title, and interest in the right-of-way of a highway on a Federal-aid system to permit the use of certain airspace for nonhighway purposes, and where such airspace is not required presently or in the foreseeable future for the safe and proper operation and maintenance of the highway facility, the right to temporary or permanent occupancy or use of such airspace may be granted by the SHD subject to prior FHWA approval.

(b) The airspace required to accommodate foreseeable future expansion of the highway facility may not be used for nonhighway purposes except under the provisions of subpart A of this part, relating to property management.

(c) In any case where sufficient land exists within the publicly acquired rights-of-way of any Federal-aid highway system to accommodate needed rail or nonhighway public mass transit facilities and where this can be accomplished without impairing automotive safety or future highway improvements, the FHWA may authorize a SHD to make such lands and rights-of-way available without charge to a publicly owned mass transit authority for such purposes whenever it may deem that the public interest will be served thereby.

(d) If found to be consistent with highway designs, any portion of right-of-way may be used for green strips, small parks, play areas, parking or

other highway related public use, or for any other public or quasi-public use which would assist in integrating the highway into the local environment and enhancing other publicly supported programs. Normally, the SHD should retain supervision and jurisdiction over such lands but could enter into agreements with local political subdivisions relative thereto.

(e) An individual, company, organization, or public agency desiring to use airspace as defined herein shall submit an application therefor to the SHD in a manner and form deemed appropriate by the SHD. Applications, including a proposed airspace agreement, shall be forwarded to the FHWA together with SHD recommendations for approval and any necessary supplemental information. The submission shall affirmatively provide for adherence to all policy requirements contained in this subpart where such are appropriate to the intended use.

(f) All nonhighway use of airspace shall be covered by a properly executed airspace agreement. The agreement shall contain the following:

(1) The party responsible for developing and operating the airspace.

(2) A general statement of the proposed use.

(3) The general design for the use of the space, including any facilities to be constructed, and such maps, plans, or sketches as are necessary to set out pertinent features in relation to the highway facility.

(4) A detailed three-dimensional description of the space to be used, except when the surface area beneath an elevated highway structure or adjacent to a highway roadway is to be used for recreation, public park, beautification, parking of motor vehicles, public mass transit facilities, and other similar uses. In such cases, a metes and bounds description of the surface area, together with appropriate plans or cross sections clearly defining the vertical use limits may be furnished in lieu of a three-dimensional description.

(5) Provision that any significant revision in the design or construction of a facility described in subsection 5f(3) above shall receive prior approval by the SHD subject to concurrence by the FHWA.

³The Federal-Aid Highway Program Manual may be examined at the Federal Highway Administration; 400 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20590.